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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CTME-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	MMP-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PC-01	ACE-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-01	DSCC-00	LBA-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

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O 172053Z APR 01

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0954

INFO USDOC WASHDC

DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

NSC WASHDC

USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003466

STATE FOR WHA/AND, WHA/ESPC, DS/DSS/OSAC, DS/DSS/ITA
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AND DS/OP/WHA

STATE PASS OPIC FOR DMORENESE

STATE PASS EXIMBANK FOR AMERICAS DIVISION

COMMERCE FOR 4331/IEP/OLA/AND/JANGLIN AND FOR

3134/USFCS/IOI/WH/DLUTTER

ENERGY FOR GARY WARD AND ERIKA BENSEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/16/06

TAGS: PTER, PINR, EPET, ENRG, ECON, KPRP, ASEC, CO

SUBJECT: MASS KIDNAPPING OF OXY CONTRACTORS

REF: A) BOGOTA 2575, B) BOGOTA 1947, C) 00 BOGOTA 10919

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON

DATE/CASE ID: 02 JUL 2004 200303455

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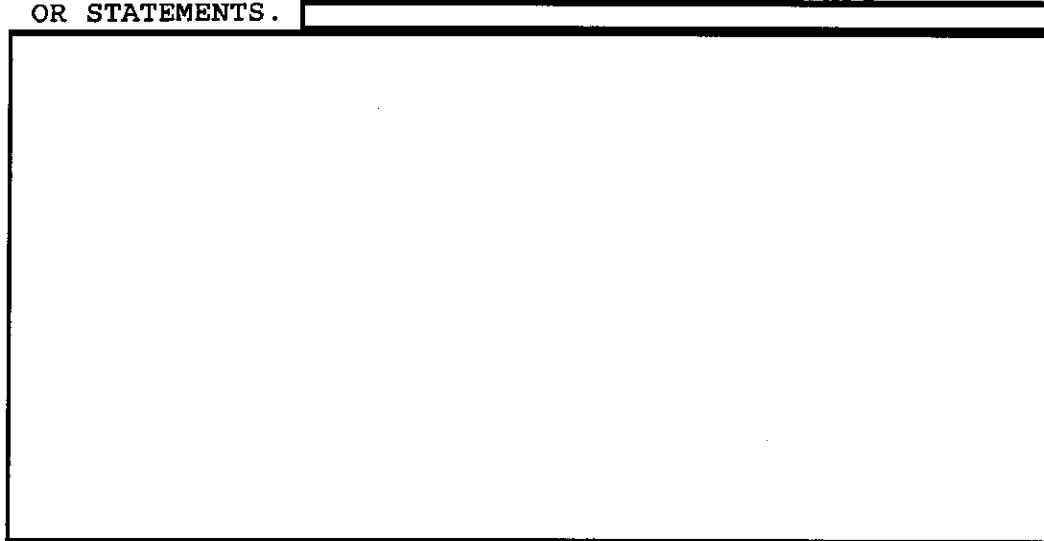
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1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. ANNE PATTERSON FOR REASONS
1.5 (B,D)
2. (C) EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM'S (OXY) LOCAL MANAGEMENT THAT DURING THE AFTERNOON SHIFT CHANGE ON APRIL 16, 130 OF ITS LOCAL CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WERE KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP SUSPECTED OF BEING THE ELN. ALL THE HOSTAGES ARE LOCAL COLOMBIAN CONTRACTORS; NO FOREIGNERS WERE TAKEN. BY MIDNIGHT, THE CAPTORS RELEASED 103 HOSTAGES WITHOUT ANY DEMANDS OR STATEMENTS.



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B
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4. (C) THE KIDNAPPING COMES AFTER A SERIES OF BOMBINGS ON THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH OXY HAS ONLY PUMPED FOR 30 HOURS SINCE FEBRUARY 1. TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM LIABILITY FOR NON-DELIVERY, ON MARCH 1, OXY INVOKED THE FORCE MAJEURE CLAUSE OF ITS CONTRACTS (REF C). BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL PROTECTION FORCE MAJEURE PROVIDES, OXY IS UNWILLING TO RESTART PRODUCTION UNTIL IT IS CONFIDENT ITS WHOLE OPERATION IS SECURE. DURING A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 16 (SEPTEL), MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES VALENCIA COSSIO STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTS TO GET OPERATIONS STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE COLOMBIA CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE USD 3 MILLION A DAY IN NON-PRODUCTION. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY TASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO OXY'S CURRENT SPATE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS (REFS A-C), BUT HAD NO CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO SHARE AS OF YET.

5. THE KIDNAPPING AND THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH OF BOLIVAR HAVE PROMPTED THE RETURN OF UN SPECIAL ADVISORS JAMES LEMOYNE AND JAN EGELAND, WHO WILL MEET WITH ELN LEADERSHIP APRIL 18.

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